

ASK THE CLUBS

No 14: Thrianta UK by its Secretary Bernard Wrigley



The question of forming a Thrianta specialist club was first raised at the London Championship Show 2010. At first it seemed to have had little serious thought about its actual viability, the breed at that time being catered for by the RVRC together with more than 20 other breeds.

The Thrianta was developed in the Netherlands during the Second World War to produce an Orange colour rabbit as a token of respect to the Dutch Royal Family.

The Thrianta specialist club in the Netherlands, which also caters for the Hulstlander, is now in its 39th year and has a membership of around 85.

The Thrianta was imported into the UK in the early 1980's and from around the late 1990's it did show a modest increase in breeders with more taking up the breed over the years that have followed.

At the beginning of 2011 a more serious approach to forming a club was taken with a list of those exhibiting Thrianta being drawn up, and was found to be around 30.

With articles and notices in the Fur & Feather, together with a circular being issued, it culminated in a Founding Meeting being held at the 2011 London Championship. This meeting was well attended and resulted in the formation of a Steering Group and the naming of the club THRIANTA UK, together with the first memberships being taken.

Following this was the necessary task of seeking affiliation to the BRC which was granted in March 2012. At this time our membership had reached 46 which contained both breeders and non breeders. We are very grateful to the latter for their support.

The membership has seen some fluctuations with a peak of 61 in December 2012 and by the end of 2014 was a very respectable 49.

The club's first stock show was held at The London Championship Show 2012 and it remains a show to which we return to annually. In total the club holds 5 stock shows each year, spread across the UK,

hopefully, meeting the member's requirements.

We remain on a learning curve in this respect but having now held 11 stock shows, the average entry has been 19 exhibits. The welcome from all host shows has been gratefully received together with the increase in Thrianta breed classes appearing at more local shows which is also encouraging.

'THE THRIANTA' News Bulletin has been used to communicate with the membership since its inauguration. This is issued around 3 times a year, via email or by post to suit the individual members.

Along with this, other information is issued, typically membership list updates, AGM Agenda/Minutes and Account information. The club does have both a Website and a Facebook page and our PayPal account has proved useful more specifically for overseas purchases with our latest member residing in Australia.

We have a judge's panel of 12, and do endeavour to invite each to judge at a stock show at some point. In addition we accept for the purpose of championship claims, those judges listed on the BRC 3 star fancy panel judges list who we can defer to for a stock show should a club judge be unavailable.

In 2014 we introduced a Diploma Scheme for the most 'Best Thrianta' wins under club judges annually, with a £20 prize. This is not something new within the fancy but is a way of giving something back to the membership.

The club continually endeavours to meet its members' requirements as regards the Thrianta and in return are pleased to receive good support. We hope to attract new members, both people who are starting with the breed and existing exhibitors who have yet to join. It would be nice to think the club had something to offer them.

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